



# THOMPSON'S ISLAND BEACON

Vol. 45 No. 9 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. Jan. 1942

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874



One of our many Holiday Decorations

## The Christmas Play

On the evening of December 21, 1941 the Annual Christmas Concert was given. Christmas carols were sung, poems and recitations given, and a Christmas play presented. The play was about a Roman Governor, his former Jewish teacher, some soldiers, a shepherd, and a stranger. It dealt with those events

that took place immediately before, during, and after the birth of Christ.

We all know that any dramatic production requires more than just actors and a director. It is my aim in writing this article to tell you briefly what went into the making of this year's Christmas play.

First came the writing of the play.

This year's play entitled "The Coming of The King," was written by Mr. Ronka. After he had completed the writing of it, he selected those boys whom he thought could act out in the best manner the several characters. The cast selected included James E. McCarthy as Cyrenius, Governor of all Syria; Frank R. Anderson as Captain of the palace guard; Melvin D. Eddy, Jr., as Antonius, a Roman guard; Ralph E. Pratt as Samuel, Cyrenius's former teacher; Ralph G. Tremblay as a shepherd; and James J. Macdonald as the Stranger, one of the Wise Men.

The parts were distributed to the individuals chosen with the instructions to read them over and familiarize themselves with the general contents. For a week nothing was done about the play.

The first rehearsal was held, and the play was read over. Hints on interpretation were given in several places; and, in general, all the parts were "ironed out." Then began the actual learning of speeches and cues. Rehearsals were held about every other night. When two weeks had passed, we all had a working knowledge of our parts and we began to really start acting. We concentrated on entrances, small actions, cues, speeches, and all those things which make a certain expression or action bring out more clearly what we are saying or doing.

Rehearsals came and went until finally dress rehearsal time came. A dress rehearsal, in case you don't know, is one in which everything is done exactly as it will be done the night of the presentation of the play. Costumes are worn, and the setting is in place. It is actually a play without an audience.

Here I would like to mention others that, as yet, have not been mentioned but without whose help the play could not have been presented as well. Mr.

Kihlstrom put up the curtains and the basic stage property. To him the director and cast are grateful for his unfailing help and cooperation. After Mr. Kihlstrom had the stage property erected, the cast and the two stage managers started to put up scenery and lights. This year's stage managing was done by Alan K. MacLean and Donald W. Lowery. Incidentally this year's entire junior class had something to do with the play.

Costumes were designed and made by Mrs. Ronka. Hers was a job not many give a thought about; but when we realize how bare and drab the play would have been without costumes, we begin to see the importance of costuming in the play.

The night of the play arrived. The program went by quickly, and suddenly there was a restless movement in the congregation. Then all was quiet. The lights were extinguished and the stage lights turned on. The curtain rose and the play was on.

That briefly is the development of a Christmas play. The countless mistakes made by the actors, the long hours devoted to directing and costuming, the careful care with which the setting was erected, all these and many more things are real work and problems; but if the audience enjoys the play, that makes the work a pleasant task for all concerned.

Frank R. Anderson

### Class Organization

Class organization is an essential thing in a classroom because it keeps the class together as a unit, thus assisting in all class activities, and because it promotes class cooperation with the whole school. That is why we boys at F.T.S. have our classes organized at the beginning of the school year.

In our sophomore class organization

we have elected various boys for various offices. Ernest Burns, Jr., is our president. His job is to get the class together whenever there is to be a meeting and to keep the class in order while the class is having a meeting. Robert Stone is our vice president, who takes the place of the president in case of absence or illness. Wallace O. Folkins, secretary, keeps all that is said in the classroom on record and reports on it in the next meeting. Walter Johansson, chairman of the entertainment committee, has a job to supply the class with ideas and to raise money for our class treasury. My office is treasurer. I collect a small amount of dues from the class members every month and keep the financial records.

Our class has decided to share our profits with some other organization of the school, such as the Movie Club, Athletic Fund, etc. We plan to give one third of our profits to the one that needs it the most.

Each class has a motto; ours is "Today Decides Tomorrow," and we try to live up to its meaning by trying hard.

George J. Zevitas

### My Impressions of Thompson's Island

I lived in Malden for thirteen years where I attended the Beebe Junior High School for one year and the Faulkner School for six years. Then one day I discovered that plans had been made to have me attend the Farm and Trades School, and I eagerly waited for the day to come when I should depart.

On the day I was to come here, I got up about six o'clock in the morning to get ready. On the way to the City Point landing I imagined that the island would be a little island set up in the sea with boys running all around it.

We came to City Point at last. I took my bags out of the car and put them

on the "Pilgrim III," which was waiting for us. On the boat were two boys whom I come to know later as Ralph Anderson and Roger Hardy dressed in sailors costume.

On the way to the island on the boat, I asked Lyman Richards what he thought the school would be like. He said, "I have no idea, and I won't know until I get there". When we were coming into the wharf, I saw a truck coming along the pier and a few boys coming to meet us.

We got off the boat and walked up to the house and into the locker room. There I found my name on a locker. We got on some old clothes and then walked around. A boy came up to me and asked me what my name was. I told him; then I asked him his. Later he showed me around a little.

I seem to get along with the boys pretty well playing football and other games.

Elmer N. Spraker

### The Farm and Trades School Bank

Statement, December 30, 1941	
RESOURCES	
Savings Bank	1120.92
Cash	147.80
<hr/>	
LIABILITIES	
Boys Deposits	699.59
Trading Co. Deposits	438.69
Cottage Row Deposits	6.76
Photo Company Deposits	60.02
Surplus	63.66
<hr/>	
	1268.72
	1268.72
	1268.72

### December Meteorology

Maximum Temperature 59° on the fourth.

Minimum Temperature 21° on the seventh.

Mean Temperature for the month 36°.

Eight clear days, ten partly cloudy, and thirteen cloudy.

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by  
**THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL**  
 Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

**A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF LIMITED  
 MEANS, SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.  
 TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS.**

WALLACE F. CHOUINARD - - - - - *Editor*

ROBERT P. DONNELLY - - - - - *Assoc. Editor*

Vol. 45 No. 9 January 1942

Subscription Price - - - One Dollar Per Year

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The world is so full of strife in this vast war that we could all be confused if we were at all uncertain about basic principles.

Theodore Roosevelt once said, "In the long run, character is the decisive factor in the life of an individual and of nations alike."

We all know the truth of this statement, but there are times when individuals and nations attempt to short cut, by-pass or detour. Then the road gets rough, the ruts deep, no place to turn around and finally that road becomes impassable.

The axis powers in this war are now on that detour and they will find the road blocked. They cannot emerge from their self-imposed short cut to world fame and world domination. The nations built on character will soon be the successful guides to a better day and better life.

It is unfortunate, indeed, that individuals and nations cannot always see clearly that character is the secret of life, the dominating factor of all true achievement and happiness. Each one of us should take heed and guide our own lives along this main road of character unless we choose to suffer by the wrong way.

## Topics in Brief

At our School, Christmas is by no means confined to a single day. On the contrary, the month of December is crowded with holiday activities. About one third of the boys had a part in the Christmas Concert, which required continual rehearsal and practice. Most of the boys were busy making presents to send home, and the sloyd room was a beehive of industry during the month. Each of the dormitories, and the Scout Troop had Christmas observances, and

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 82 Devonshire Street, Boston

these all required preparation. All in all, December was a tremendously busy, happy month.

Our Christmas Concert took place on Sunday December 21. The principal part of the program was the first performance of a play, "The Coming of the King," written by our principal, Mr. George R. Ronka. The play was beautifully staged and costumed by Mr. and Mrs. Ronka. It told the Christmas message in an original, highly-satisfying manner. There was special music by the vested choir and the brass quartet. Several of the boys gave recitations. The program was well prepared and told the inspiring story of Christmas well.

On the afternoon of December 21 we had a most unusual visit. Santa Claus, in the person of John A. Thornquist, visited the school and there were gifts for all the boys. This unique party was arranged by our good friend, Edward Rowe Snow, prominent historian. A zither concert by Mrs. Alice Rowe Snow, was thoroughly enjoyed. Mr. Snow's mother also told the story of her instrument, and of her travels, particularly in South America. The party was held in Bowditch House and was very much enjoyed.

On Christmas afternoon, December 25, it was our privilege to have an entertainment provided us by President Arthur Adams, of the Board of Managers. This is an annual gift and, as may be expected, an outstanding part of our Christmas celebration. The entertainers this year were Walter Keylor and Ben Ferrier, both top ranking artists.

The program opened with piano specialities by Mr. Keylor. Then there were many character songs, original sketches and stories in dialect, all very much enjoyed.

Mr. Ferrier followed Mr. Keylor on the program. This explorer and adventurer had many interesting stories to tell us. He is an outstanding guide and rated as this country's foremost canoeist. The motion pictures which concluded his program gave ample evidence of his right to these distinctions. Much of the equipment used on his Canadian trips was on exhibition, and the boys surely enjoyed examining his outfit.

Each of the boys was presented with a round box of chocolates, the gift of the Alumni Association. We thank the Association members for their kindness.

The entire afternoon program was of great interest, and we are deeply appreciative of the kindness shown us.

One thing which helped make this Christmas one which will be forever impressed upon our memories is the fact that all the boys were settled and at home in our beautiful new dormitories. Each of the buildings was brilliantly decorated, and one even boasted an outdoor illuminated tree. On Christmas Eve a group of the boys visited each of the new buildings and sang a program of Christmas carols. How we wish our friends could have been with us on Christmas Eve and observed the boys in their new homes, heard the carol singing, and shared the Christmas spirit with our boys!

Our distribution of Christmas presents took place on Christmas morning. Eugene Proctor, '38, who was on furlough from Camp Edwards was Santa Claus. Heaps and heaps of presents were distributed. Following this the boys went outside to receive a present from the Santa Claus of the air, Edward Rowe Snow. Mr. Snow flew over the island and dropped a package containing pictures and other gifts. He also took pictures of

the boys, and these photos were on exhibition in Boston just after Christmas.

### The Christmas Entertainment at F. T. S.

On Thursday afternoon, December 25, which we all recognize as Christmas Day, the boys and instructors at F. T. S. were entertained by an explorer of the North and a comedian who played the piano, the violin, and impersonated certain people.

The explorer, Ben Ferrier, gave us a lecture on what to wear and how to take care of ourselves in the North. He also showed us some moving pictures of some of his travels in the North. He gave an exhibition of how a traveler in the North carried his belongings and how he dressed. He showed us all the clothing necessary to keep warm way up there in that cold region.

Mr. Keylor, who was the piano player and comedian, entertained the boys by singing, telling jokes, and impersonating certain people.

Before the program began, each boy was given a box of candy. This was a gift of the Alumni Association.

Speaking for all the boys at the school, I wish to express our thanks and appreciation to Mr. Adams for providing us with this grand entertainment, which I am sure everyone enjoyed very much.

Alan K. MacLean

### Christmas Vacation

Christmas time is the end of our second term of school work. At the end of each term we have a week's vacation. During these vacations we perform varied activities, but Christmas sees more activity than other terms. Each Christmas vacation seems much better than previous years, but in reality this year tops them all. The better behaved boys received vacations which they earned during the

preceding year to spend at home.

Some of the activities the boys indulged in were basketball, skating, skiing, sliding, and hobbies of which the boys are very fond. To me the vacation seemed very short, but I enjoyed it very much.

Wallace G. Hardy

### New Year's Party

The boys of F. T. S. held a New Year's Eve party, bidding the old year "Farewell," and wishing 1942 more success and happiness than any year before. It was a simple party that was held in "C" building. No noise makers were in evidence, for we didn't need to or want to make a lot of noise. There were games of all varieties, such as ping pong, chess, cards, checkers, and many other new and old games. Refreshments were served consisting of punch and cake, which I am sure we all enjoyed. The party was very successful and we all had a good time.

Mark C. Risser

### True Yuletide Spirit

Every Christmas the Alumni of this school make the gift of a pound box of chocolates to each boy. As ever, the boys appreciated this gift with all possible expressions. This, as other gifts, fits into the happiness of the cheerful Christmas Day here at the school.

In behalf of the boys at this school, I wish to heartily thank the Alumni for the welcome gift which truly shows the Yuletide Spirit.

Donald W. Lowery

### Calendar 90 Years Ago, December, '51

As Kept by the Superintendent

31. At the commencement of the year there were ninety-seven here; since which time, fifty-three have been received and fifty-one have left the school.

Of the latter number, seventeen were apprenticed and thirty-six returned to their friends.

The number here at the present time is ninety-nine: of whom nine are between eight and ten years old; thirty-eight, between ten and twelve; forty-four, between twelve and fourteen; seven between fourteen and sixteen; and one is sixteen years of age.

Nineteen have both parents living; ten have a father; forty-six, only a mother; and twenty-four are orphans.

No physician has been called to visit them during the year, nor have we had occasion to call one on account of sickness of the boys, except in one case, for more than ten years.

We have not, however, been unmindful of the means which Providence has placed in our power to guard against sickness, such as cleanliness, thorough ventilation, simple and nourishing food, exercise in open air, and an early attention to any symptoms of disease. But with all these precautions, we cannot feel too grateful to that Being for blessing the means which He has enabled us to use aright and shielding us from harm.

The building erected the year previous has been finished the past year; other improvements have been made and a considerable portion of the interior of the house has been painted.

Among the pleasant incidents of the year may be mentioned the agreeable visits we have received from many of those who have been sent out from this school in years past; and who are now pursuing some regular vocation.

More than fifty such visits have been made; and it is gratifying to know the various paths they have marked out for themselves in life, upon which, some of them have already entered. A few have families while others are just passing into

manhood when their influence will be more extensively felt and operate favorably, it is hoped, on the future welfare of society. Several who have learned mechanical trades are receiving from one and a half, to two and a half dollars per day for their services; another has a respectable and profitable agency in the city.

In point of talents, general information and social feelings, they will well compare with the better portion of the community. And who can estimate the happy influences they are capable of exercising on others, even only for a century to come?

During the winter months, I attended personally to the writing lessons and the books were sent to the city for the examination of the Board. The teachers devote all their time to the school and between them and the boys there is a mutual good feeling.

The success which has attended our labors hitherto, the good feeling and apparent contentment manifested by the boys at the present time, and the zealous efforts and kind treatment used by the teachers enable us to look forward with hope.

Robert Morrison, Sup't  
Thompson's Island  
Dec. 31, 1851

### September Work on the Farm

The farm at the present time is very busy. We are now putting the last of the silage corn into the silo. Besides this we are digging potatoes. This year we have not had as good a crop as we have had in previous years.

Then come the jobs that have to be done every day, such as feeding pigs, doing chores in the cow barn, working in the dairy room, hauling manure and spreading it on the fields.

William D. Bernard

## The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

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Thompson's Island

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Hyde Park, Mass.

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77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON  
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian  
Hyde Park, Mass.

WILLIAM N. WEST, '28, has written an interesting account of his activities in the Royal Canadian Air Force. He joined the air force because of an innate craving for excitement. Since that time he has been in the hospital for two internal operations, and expects now that his discharge from the service is imminent. Just what he will do is undetermined; but since he has become infected with a genuine desire for aviation, he will probably remain in that field in some capacity.

Speaking of his boyhood days on Thompson's Island, Mr. West writes as follows:

"As schoolboys on Thompson's Island we knew truth and goodness for what it was; we were uninhibited and without prejudices. Our thoughts were free, clean and untarnished. How well I remember my first day at the School, when I walked up Front Avenue and smelled the sweet hay from the barn. The Island meant so much to me. It meant being away from a crowded city. It meant driving horses and milking cows, and all the rest that goes with it. I remember asking to spend my playtime working on the farm during my first few days, for I was surely happy. And, still fresh in my mind is the smell of the lilacs by the front entrance in the early spring, and the odor of salt water spray as the waves broke high over the bow of the Pilgrim, and the fetid barnacles on the piles at low tide; and of warm milk as it lay cooling in the dairy room in the tall zinc-plated cans, and of newly mowed grass, and burning leaves in the fall, and a hundred other kindred odors."

Mr. West, upon receiving his discharge, will marry and return to this

country. His address now is R. C. A. F., Trenton, Ontario, C O (LAC) R 77193.

HOWARD E. KEITH, '22, was a recent visitor. After graduating from F. T. S. he completed his high school education at Brewster Academy, Wolfeboro, N. H. He then enlisted in the Marines and was on duty in Nicaragua during the disturbance there.

Following his service in the Marines he returned to Wolfeboro, and married Miss Josephine Pinkham. He became custodian of Brewster Academy, which position he held until last year. At that time he moved to Boston and began work at the Fore River Shipyards, where he is at present located. He makes his home in the government defence workers' project in South Boston and lives there at 319 East Eighth Street.

He has five children, the oldest being Howard, Jr., aged ten. Priscilla is six years old and Cynthia four. Norman E. and Charles F., twins, are two years old.

Mr. Keith doesn't have too much time for hobbies. His main pleasure is model railroads and when the writer saw the railroad last, it covered the entire attic floor of his home. Much new equipment has been added, and it is no doubt a project well worth examining. His other interests are hockey and music.

The members of the Association will be glad to learn of the date of the Annual Dinner. It will be held at the Hotel Vendome, near Copley Square, Boston, on February 18, at 6:30 P. M. The cost will be two dollars, which includes all taxes. We want a banner attendance. Please plan to be present.



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### Charles Hayden Scholarship Boys

Most everyone knows about the Charles Hayden Foundation and the money it has given our school. I think that you should all know something about the lives of Mr. Charles Hayden and Mr. J. Willard Hayden.

Mr. Charles Hayden, who was born in Boston, was educated at M.I.T. and proved to be an extraordinarily intelligent man. He belonged to several fraternal orders and clubs. His first job was as a ticker boy at \$3.00 a week. He kept working his way up and went into partnership with a Mr. Galen Stone. Mr. Stone had many of the business contacts and Mr. Hayden the mind. This combination made millions. Besides selling stocks on a commission, these two men went into fields of copper and gold mining, railroad ownership, and became also owners of one of the largest sugar cane businesses.

At the age of thirty Mr. Hayden was a millionaire. When Mr. Hayden died, he left \$50,000,000 towards the development of young men and boys mentally, physically and morally. His fund was to be used mainly in Boston and New York, although it has helped several organizations and schools outside of these cities. Race or creed is not even thought of when bestowing sums from this fund.

Mr. J. Willard Hayden is Mr. Charles

Hayden's brother. He was left in charge of the money and is head of the trustees of this fund. Mr. J. Willard Hayden received his education in the public schools of Boston—he never attended college. His estate in Lexington was famous for the Twin Elm Spring. During the first World War Mr. Hayden was the Director of Demobilization in the largest welfare organization serving the men overseas.

Charles Hayden Scholarships of \$100 each have been given to thirty boys at the School during the present and past year. So far the youngest boys have had the honor of receiving these scholarships.

As well as this Scholarship Fund, we received from the Charles Hayden Foundation a great part of the money to pay for our three new dormitory buildings.

### Hayden Scholarship Boys 1941-42

#### 7th Grade:

Frank N. Babick  
James A. Blair  
Fred P. DeLorie  
Walter F. DeLorie  
Frank W. Ellis  
Herbert A. Holmstedt  
Lyman L. Richard  
Robert G. Stidstone

#### 6th Grade:

Stanley E. Davis  
Frederick H. Donovan  
Carl G. Irving

Howard E. Jennison  
 Harold D. Lowery, Jr.  
 Robert W. Smith, Jr.  
 Stephen J. Zevitas  
 Robert H. Stone

### A Good Job and Ratings

On the good ship *Pilgrim III*, the captain, Mr. Jardine, has started a new system of rating the crew. The crew is made up of four boys. When a boy first steps on the boat for his first day of work, he immediately becomes an apprentice seaman. There are three other ratings above this: they are the ordinary seaman, ablebodied seaman, and the highest rating of all—quartermaster.

Out of these three higher ratings I am striving to become an ordinary seaman. To do this I have to fulfill the requirements which I will name. The first thing one has to have is a definite period of service of six months. I have served approximately a year. Other things are to know at least a dozen useful knots, how to box a compass, give the relative positions of other boats to the boat you are on by points, know three different types of rowboats, not by their size and shape but by the way they are made. We must also know the different types of anchors and all the parts of at least one of the types; know most all the nautical terms dealing with boats and most all parts of a boat; we should have a knowledge of the different types of rope and their parts; have a good clean record and be willing to work. Once these items are mastered, I have a chance to become an ordinary seaman.

Roger E. Hardy

### Working in the Paint Shop

It is not a hard job, and it is interesting. There is always something different to do. Sometimes I may have to set glass. Some people think that it is

simple, but it is not as simple as you may think. Mixing the putty is a hard job to do perfectly. It has to be sticky. Then you have to wait about fifteen minutes for it to dry. Then it is ready to use.

Sometimes there is a window which has an odd dimension and the glass has to be cut. Then comes the art of using a glass cutter which is a very delicate instrument. Unless it is held correctly, it will not cut. I found this out when I first tried to cut glass. I had to be shown by my instructor, and I watched very carefully to see how it was done. That is something which I didn't know how to do, but I have mastered it.

Painting is a lot of fun, but there are certain things a good painter must know in order to make him a painter, such as mixing colors, mixing paints or even putting the paint on. There are many other things to learn, but I mentioned these things because I have learned how to do them.

It is easy to paint a wall because it is so big and because there aren't any borders or designs. To paint a small object is much harder, but it can be made easy by taking your time and not having too much paint on the brush.

Mixing paint is fairly easy if you have the right implements and also the right directions for mixing the color.

I have told a few of the many things I have learned while I have been working in the paint shop. Personally I like my work, and I hope that I can stay there as long as I am at the Farm and Trades School.

Glendon L. Campbell

### The Care of the New Building Floors

The basement and stairs of the new buildings are covered with linoleum. The floors in the halls and rooms upstairs are made of highly polished wood and

the only thing that covers them are rugs.

Well, to start with, the linoleum-covered floors in the basement have to go through quite a process to be polished. First, the floors are swept clean; next, they are scrubbed with warm, soapy water and then dried.

After the floors have dried thoroughly, a thin coat of wax is applied and left for fifteen or twenty minutes. After this length of time is up, we have to polish the floors; so we take out the buffer which has a long handle similar to that of a lawn mower. At one end is the polisher which is circular in form and about a foot and a half in diameter. It is about 3 inches thick. A stiff brush is fitted into the bottom of the polisher and on the top is a small motor. Right beneath the handle is a switch to start and stop the motor.

It takes a little skill to operate this equipment. To make it move to the right, you push down on the handle; to go to the left, you lift up on it; to make it go forward you tip the buffer to your right; and to make it move backwards you tip it to your left.

After the floors are buffed, they shine and look so clean and smooth that you think they are new.

Wellman E. Bonsey

### Classroom Activities

In this troublesome period of war and destruction everybody has certain activities to prepare and to carry out, but the activities of the classroom are in most cases very important.

Whether or not this country stays a democracy, depends fully upon our fighting forces of today, but whether or not this country continues to be a democracy depends fully upon present day youth. That is what our teachers relay to us, and we should strive to carry out our duty.

This does not mean that right away

we start to prepare for another world war by making war material. We must learn such subjects as mathematics, algebra, English, history, and geography, and some foreign languages.

While in our first year of high school we learn most of the subjects previously mentioned, plus studying maps and worthwhile cartoons. Not one of these activities carried out in the classroom will ever do one any harm, but they will always do him good.

Another activity of the classroom is reading books. Most of these books require a report so that we can pass interesting information on to others.

All of these activities given and carried out by American youth will keep us a democracy worthwhile striving for.

Robert P. Donnelly

### A Good Beach Walk

Every Sunday afternoon Mr. Sweetser takes us on a beach walk. When we go, we divide in two groups. In the winter we throw snow balls at the other side and sometimes hit them. In the summer we have acorn fights. Sometimes we go all the way around the Island and sometimes we only go around South End. We have a swell time on these beach walks and when we get back we listen to the Shadow at half past four.

Stanley E. Davis

### Calendar 90 Years Ago, February, 1852

As Kept by the Superintendent

10. Went to the city with Wm. F. Drugan who hurt his arm in coasting which was examined by Dr. J. Mason Warren who found nothing out of place.

18. Went to the city and spent the evening with the Farm School Club.

29. A discourse was read to the boys on this and the other Sabbaths of this month by the Superintendent.

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AUGUSTUS P. LORING, JR., Treasurer

82 Devonshire Street, Boston

There is no deep, dark secret about what is wrong with the world today. Immediately comes to our minds a certain individual across the water with a mania for world domination. True, this terrible aggression is the focal point of deserved criticism but the situation which has made this path of destruction easy is the fault of many nations of people.

Throughout the history of mankind the volumes of records show that whenever and wherever groups of people, large or small, work together for the common good of all, there is progress and reasonable harmony. The records show that able leadership for the good of all and complete cooperation among all, have built happy civilization. Democracy with a nation of people who will concede to the mandates expressed by the adopted constitution and laws of the majority, a united people acknowledging God and actively supporting the principles of The Book, is practical and ideal.

The trouble comes from a general world-wide misconception of self-importance. We think, "It can't happen here," "I" will not be molested, world troubles are not my problems, I will do as I like and let the others look out for themselves.

And so we go on and on, never learning the simple truths of life. Too many of us look upon the minister with a certain degree of tolerance and pity that he should be so simple as to believe in those age-old myths such as the Golden Rule, The Ten Commandments and other Bible teachings. Teachers, too, we may label as sort of queer, and yet who among us doesn't acknowledge the wholesome influence and guidance of these professionals?

Whether we like it or not, we must do what is best for a united people. No

permanent satisfaction will come from any lesser stand. The rule is obvious and clear cut; we must work for the common good and discard the "I" conception of the universe.

### Topics in Brief

Basketball is our principal winter game, and nearly all of the boys take part in the sport. During the month the varsity team was busy, as was the junior varsity team. The Sears League advanced towards the closing dates on the schedule, with the winner still undetermined. The Nut League, composed of four teams of younger boys, is having an excellent season. Interest in the competition is keen.

Our Scout troop has had many interesting meetings during the month. All of the members of the troop are hard at work passing tests and becoming ready for advancement. Very shortly about ten beginners, or "tenderfoots", will be made regular members of the troop, bringing our group to a complete troop membership.

Through the courtesy of Col. Leavitt C. Parsons, publisher of the Northeastern Poultryman Magazine, our poultry department was interviewed on the Colonial Network, on February 5. This program, known as the "Voice of the Poultryman", was heard throughout New England. Headmaster William M. Meacham interviewed our farm manager, Mark C. Baird.

The annual anniversary of the Boy Scouts was observed by our troop, and on Sunday evening February 8, the troop conducted the Church service.

The Alumni Association held its annual dinner on February 18, at the Hotel Vendome. Present from the School were Headmaster William M. Meacham, Clifton E. Albee '21, Raymond

Thomas, '26, Arthur H. Pickard, '34, and William M. Meacham, Jr., '37.

Washington's Birthday was observed by a novel and highly successful King Phillip's War. This game was in the form of a treasure hunt, for which the entire island was used. In the evening an excellent program of motion pictures was enjoyed.

Our minister, Rev. Richard Sweetser, provided a program of motion pictures for us on February 1, which dealt with the wonderful work being done in leper colonies. Mr. Sweetser outlined briefly the story of leprosy before the pictures were projected.

Steel lockers, formerly located in the main building have been repaired and painted, and are being installed in the basement locker rooms of our three new dormitories. Each pupil is provided with one of these lockers.

The war has affected us, as it has all communities, and we have been preparing for some time to face any eventuality. Nearly every faculty member is an air raid warden, and these wardens are completing the standard course of first aid, as prescribed by the American Red Cross. A member of our staff, Raymond Thomas, is an accredited Red Cross instructor, and has taught the work. The air raid warden course was completed some time ago, and instruction was given in the many emergencies which we, like everyone else, may encounter.

The sixth graders gave a reading program at our Assembly program on Feb. 2. One week later the members of the Agricultural classes gave a varied program. Another group presented an interesting account of the life of Stephen Foster on February 16.

The sixth graders held a valentine party on February 13. This enjoyable event was featured by the valentines which were made by the pupils, and which were especially attractive.

### Choosing the School Team

Mr. Thomas, the varsity coach, had the boys report to the gymnasium to try out for the school team. The boys were very numerous at the beginning but slowly they have been thinned out. There were approximately fourteen boys remaining from which ten were to be chosen. It was a hard job to select these ten boys because each boy appeared to be as good as the other.

After a lot of thinking, Mr. Thomas finally picked the varsity. I think he had a pretty good team this year because all the boys tried their hardest to make it a good team. He had but two veterans on this year's squad, and the rest of the players were new so we all hoped the team would be a success.

The first game of the school team was played January 17 with the Quincy Baptist Church here at the island.

James E. McCarthy

### A Basketball Game

On Saturday, February 28, the Walnuts were to play the Peanuts. The Peanuts and the Walnuts had their teams all lined up on the floor. Then Billy Meacham blew the whistle. The two centers jumped and one hit the ball to one of the boys on his team. The boy who got the ball would dribble down the floor and shoot for the basket. If the ball did not go in he would try again until the ball was taken away from him. Then the whistle blew for the first quarter. After the first quarter was over we would do the same thing again until the whistle blew for the half. At the half the score was 8-3 in favor of the Walnuts. The

whistle would blow again; the two teams would line up their men for the game. Then we would play the third and fourth quarters. At the end of the game the score was 24-7 in favor of the Walnuts. I got 16 points which are 8 baskets. That alone would have won the game. Before we leave we give a *hikah* and then go away as happy as ever.

Chester A. Stevenson

### The Farm and Trades School Bank

Statement, February 28, 1942  
RESOURCES

Savings Bank . . . . .	\$1224.92
Cash . . . . .	106.16
	\$1331.08

### LIABILITIES

Boys Deposits . . . . .	\$812.37
Trading Co. Deposits . . . .	447.46
Cottage Row Deposits . . . .	6.90
Photo Company Deposits . . .	18.47
Surplus . . . . .	45.88
	\$1331.08

### February Meteorology

Maximum Temperature 48° on the seventeenth.

Minimum Temperature 1° on the third.

Mean Temperature for the month 28°.

Nine clear days, ten partly cloudy, and nine cloudy.

### Book Reports

In the freshman class we have had to read a book that is non-fiction, and we make our reports about the book to Mr. Ronka. This time the first five boys to give oral reports had the junior class as critics. They criticized the way the freshmen stood, talked, and what they said about their books.

These first few boys were volunteers, and they did very well.

I find this work very interesting.

Chester McLeod

## The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

CLIFTON E. ALBEE, '21, President  
Thompson's Island  
HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer  
Arlington, Mass.

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Vice-President  
Hyde Park, Mass.

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary  
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON  
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian  
Hyde Park, Mass.

One of the most successful Annual Dinners ever held by the Alumni Association took place on the evening of February 18, at the Hotel Vendome, in Boston.

The toastmaster was the Chairman of the entertainment committee, Waldo L. Waters, '30. He first introduced the President of the Board of Managers, Arthur Adams. Mr. Adams told of the progress the school is making and of the great changes which have recently been undertaken.

Headmaster William M. Meacham spoke in general terms of life at the school. The new buildings, the new athletic field and the effect the war is having on Thompson's Island were his

main topics, presented in a colorful talk.

Manager Robert H. Gardiner was introduced and expressed his appreciation at being invited to attend the dinner.

The Secretary of the Association, Merton P. Ellis, read some pertinent items, and concluded with a list of our members in the armed services.

Many familiar faces were absent and our regrets are extended to those who could not be with us.

An excellent entertainment was provided by Mal Cameron '19, whose program of magic gets more entertaining at each successive performance. R. Hollis Gould, '38, with Myron A. Pratt, '38, at the piano sang a group of songs in a manner and style most acceptable.

### Present at the Annual Dinner February 18, 1942

#### Board of Managers

President Arthur Adams  
Robert H. Gardiner  
Headmaster Wm. M. Meacham  
Harold W. Edwards '10

#### Guests

Bandmaster Frank L. Warren

George Blood

Leonard Lauriat

Ralph E. Pratt, Shaw Scholar

Ernest Burns, Class President

#### Liversidge Alumni

O. W. Ellis '96

H. Gulesian '19

#### Alumni

Adams, Karl R. '31

Albee, Clifton E. '21

Albee, Clyde W. '33

Averill, Charles F. '37

Bailey, John A. '36

Bean, Elvin C. '36

Bean, Raymond M. '38

Beck, Raymond L., Jr. '36

Berry, Percie R. '38

Bishop, Walter A. '35

Brain, James A. '25

Brewer, William E., Jr. '38

Burchstead, Frederick F. '01

Calkin, Rupert F. '18

Cameron, Malcolm E. '19

Crowley, Richard W. '33

Davis, Harvey H. '35

Dudley, Herbert L. '16

Ellis, Howard B. '98

Ellis, Merton P. '97

Emerson, Eugene S. '39

Ericsson, A. Conrad, ex '28

Floyd, Harold E. '29

Gould, R. Hollis '38

Gould, Theodore J. '15

Gould, Webster S. '18

Gilchrist, Henry E. '26

Hall, Samuel O. '30

Hall, W. Marshall '27

Herman, Carl P. '29

Hobson, Clarence P. '23

Hobson, Jack H. '27

Klaila, William J. '41

Larsson, G. George '17

LeBrun, David B. '19

Malmgren, Harold K. '39

Meacham, William M., Jr. '37

Moore, Murdock C. '39

Morton, Stanley C. '41

Nelson, Richard J. '39

Nelson, Walter R. '38

Newton, Ernest D. ex '32

Norrby, Clarence O. ex '16

Parsons, W. Chester '36

Pickard, Arthur H. '34

Poole, George O. '27

Pratt, Myron A. '38

Pratt, William B. '39

Pulson, Herbert A. '96

Reagan, William F. '37

Reardon, D. Carleton '40

Schippers, John H. '21

Schlegel, William L. '41

Smith, Edwin L. '37

Surry, George L. '93

Thomas, Raymond '26

Thompson, Charles E. '40

Walley, Kenneth M. '41

Waters, Waldo L. '30

Whitehead, Samuel L. '23

Winmill, Ivers E. '23

Young, Robert H. '35

Young, William L. '28

The following is a list of those who are known to be in the various branches of the Service, with their ratings where known. There are doubtless others and we would appreciate any information concerning the whereabouts of any not included in this list.

**Navy and Coast Guard**

Lieut. Ralph Williams, Manager  
 Lieut. J. G. John D. MacGregor, '31  
 C. P. O. William B. Cross, '17  
 Ernest V. Wyatt, '13  
 Lloyd Blanchard, '32  
 Henry M. Stanley, '34  
 Francis A. Curtin, '35  
 John R. Macdonald, '35  
 John C. Simens, '37  
 Warren M. Linnell, '38  
 Robert J. English, '38  
 Eliot Bernard, '38  
 John Dunn, '39  
 William J. Bevans, '39  
 Arthur W. Chase, '40  
 A. Robert Hallberg, '40  
 William P. Dufault, '41

**Army**

Capt. E. Henry Sefton, former Instr.  
 Capt. Franklin P. Miller, '18  
 Lieut. Edmund L. Boyce, former Instr.  
 Lieut. Carl O. Weeks, '29  
 Sgt. George D. Russell, '25  
 Sgt. David Brenner, '37  
 Corp. Ralph Milliken Fuller, '31  
 R. Carroll Jones, former Instr.  
 Willard G. Schroeder, '24  
 Philip Young, '24  
 William Anderson, '25  
 Arthur C. Brown, '29  
 John A. Paley, '29  
 Frank J. Dow, '30  
 Henry E. Hallman, '31  
 James E. Douglas, '32  
 Charles D. Hallman, '32  
 Walter K. Pratt, '33  
 F. Samuel Very, '33  
 Ernest F. Peterson, '36

William L. Littlejohn, '36  
 Lewis C. Goodwin, '36  
 John P. Davis, '36  
 Horace E. Fader, '37  
 Theodore R. Davidson, '38  
 David W. Kenvin, '38  
 Thomas C. Kenvin, '38  
 Eugene Proctor, '38  
 George F. Connors, '39  
 G. Robert Davis, '39  
 Richard A. Martin, '39  
 Charles H. Grant, '40

**Marines**

Sgt. Leander Dorey, '23  
 Francis D. McAuliffe, '36

**Aviation and Foreign**

William N. West, '28  
 V. Dexter Woodman, '33

We were pleased to receive a note from HOWARD H. STURTEVANT, '23. He is employed by the Wornok Mill, Inc., 197 Friend Street, Boston. He is a former Brewster Academy pupil, and after leaving that school in 1925 has been engaged in his present work. He is married and lives at 3 Highland Terrace, Winchester.

He mentions two other graduates whom he visits frequently. Reverend THEODORE B. HADLEY, '21, settled over a Baptist parish in Vermont, is still one of the better story tellers, and KENNETH E. KEARNS, '22, advertising expert with the Manchester Union-Leader, Manchester, N. H., is still the professional hockey expert. We can easily imagine the happy meetings which take place when these graduates meet.

RALPH TALBOT, '36, is playing with an orchestra which is touring the training camps. He writes that the organization he is with holds the record for attendance of any musical group to date. His home address is now 307 Pleasant Street, New Bedford, Massachusetts.



Vol. 45 No. 12 Printed at The Farm and Trades School, Boston, Mass. April 1942

Entered November 3, 1903 at Boston, Mass., as Second Class matter, under Act of Congress, of July 6, 1874

### Visitors from South America

On Sunday, March 22, Rev. Richard Sweetser, our minister, brought with him Rev. Clyde Taylor, his wife and two children. Thirteen years ago Reverend Taylor was the minister at the Farm and Trades School.

Since then he has been in South America as a missionary teaching the Gospel to the nations. He has spent three years in Peru, and ten years in Colombia. Mr. Taylor has had many adventures in the mountains of Colombia, of which this country has many, ranging from 6,000 to 15,000 feet in height. Most of the towns are on mountain tops. He and his family lived on a mountain top about 15,000 feet or more above sea level.

Mr. Sweetser introduced him at the beginning of the service. Mrs. Taylor led us in the prayer. Mr. Taylor then took over the service after we had sung a few songs.

He brought with him a great number of slides which were shown with the assistance of Mr. C. E. Albee. As the pictures were shown, Mr. Taylor told us about an interesting event that had to do with each picture.

When the slides had been shown, Mr. Taylor led us in a final prayer. I think that most of us thought that it was one of

the most interesting services we have had. Of course this does not mean that Mr. Sweetser does not have good services, but it was extremely interesting to hear Mr. Taylor tell about teaching the Gospel to the South American people and showing what Christ can do.

I think, and most of us will agree, that he is doing a fine piece of work.

Walter J. Ross

### Essays

In order to write an essay of 2000 words for graduation, as all boys that graduate have to do, material must be found upon which the essay is to be based. After the necessary material has been secured either from our school reference library or from different companies, one must organize this information.

The outline takes care of the organizing, and this procedure is a job in itself.

The actual writing follows the outline. The material contained in the outline must be put on paper step by step so that the actual essay is just an enlarged form of the outline. The first draft is copied over and handed in to Mr. Ronka, our English teacher, who corrects it. The first copy is returned then for correction which sometimes means that the entire essay must be rewritten.

The final copy is put into Mr.

Meacham's possession. All the graduation essays become the property of the school when the final copy is passed in.

James F. St. Coeur

### Mr. Meacham's Birthday

On the 2nd of March Mr. Meacham had a birthday. At 6 o'clock we had supper in the Gym. We had lots of sandwiches and punch, for dessert we had ice cream, cup cakes, and some of Mr. Meacham's birthday cake. After supper we went into Chapel and sang songs and put on plays. Some of the plays were: "Orders is Orders", "Ary and Arriet", and "Caught in Short Pants". The songs were: The White Cliffs of Dover, The Rose of No-Man's Land, Amelia Earheart, and a Sailors Girl Friend. Afterward we went to bed.

Gordon N. Dudley

### King Philip's War

On February 22, 1942 we celebrated Washington's Birthday. It is the custom of the school to have a King Philip's War on that day. The school is divided into two groups which are called the Settlers and the Indians and a "war" is carried on.

It has also been the custom to have a fort of snow; or if there is no snow, bags of different colors have been placed in the middle of the field. These bags count so many points, and the sides are given so many minutes to struggle for the possession of the bags. Each side would rush each other.

But this year it was different. We had a treasure hunt. Here we had to hunt for cards which had certain numbers on them, and the side that had the highest number was the winner at the end of the given time. The Settlers were the winners this year.

When the war was over, the winning

team went to the "gym" and had cocoa, doughnuts, bananas, and cookies. They also invited the losing team. So no one was left out of the "eats."

Walter J. Ross

### Honor Roll—Winter Term

Junior Class: Ralph E. Pratt, 89.8; James E. McCarthy, 82.5.

Sophomore Class: David G. Haeger, 84.8; Ernest Burns, 84.3.

Freshman Class: Wallace Chouinard, 87.8; Malcolm C. Huston, 87.3.

Eighth Grade: Theodore J. Mara, 94.8; Herbert Collins, 89.8.

Seventh Grade: Frank N. Babick, 87.2; George H. Bruce, 87.2; Darwin C. Baird, 85.5.

Sixth Grade: Carl G. Irving, 86.7; Robert W. Smith, Jr., 83.8.

The following students have received a mark of 90 or over in scholastic effort for the past term.

Junior Class: Ralph E. Pratt.

Sophomore Class: Robert H. Stone.

Freshman Class: Malcolm C. Huston.

Eighth Grade: Theodore J. Mara, Louis A. Towne, Jr.

Seventh Grade: Frank N. Babick.

Sixth Grade: Carl G. Irving, Joyce E. Meacham.

### Scout Activities

For the past two years I have been in the scout troop at the School. During this time I have enjoyed many excellent meetings with the troop.

During the summer months, the scouts camp outdoors. This increases their knowledge of outdoor life and habits. While camping out, the boys do all they can to learn the requirements needed to become a higher class scout.

When the weather begins to get cold, the boys take everything they have been using and return it to its proper place.

Before we leave the camp, we clean the grounds and burn all of the rubbish.

Through the winter months the troop has many meetings, and at the meetings the scouts pass many required tests.

The scout troop at Thompson's Island will be of much use here in Boston during the present World War if any help is needed around us or on the Island. The scouts here at the Island take particular interest in anything dealing with Safety and Aid.

The troop has many parties also during the year the largest one being at Christmas. Punch, sandwiches, cookies, and other varied refreshments are served. Presents are given to each member of the troop and also to members of the troop committee. These parties are very much enjoyed by the boys.

Speaking for every member of the troop, I can truthfully say that our scoutmaster, Mr. Clifton E. Albee, and the troop committee do everything possible to aid the scouts in carrying out their duties.

Robert P. Donnelly

### The Farm and Trades School Bank

Statement, March 31, 1942  
RESOURCES

Savings Bank . . . . .	\$1224.92
Cash . . . . .	34.93
	\$1259.85
<b>LIABILITIES</b>	
Boys Deposits . . . . .	\$741.08
Trading Co. Deposits . . . .	447.46
Cottage Row Deposits . . . .	6.90
Photo Company Deposits . . .	18.53
Surplus . . . . .	45.88
	\$1259.85

### The Progress of our Present Band

The F.T.S. band at present is made up of approximately 35 members consisting mostly of juniors, sophomores, freshmen, and eighth graders, but there

are a few seventh graders also.

The band started last summer after graduation with about 18 boys. There were no altos, but we did have one or two drummers, six clarinets, five cornets, and four trombones. The band has almost doubled itself since then, and boys are continually becoming members. When a member has mastered his instrument and can play it successfully, he teaches his knowledge to another boy who is interested.

On Saturday mornings from 9:00 till 11:00 we march in the "gym". Soon we will be practicing fancy drills outside. Each member of the band must memorize the five marches for the street: "National Emblem," "Our Bugler," "Farm and Trades School Band March," "Show Boy," and "Remember Pearl Harbor." We hope we can do as well this year as we have done in previous years at the festivals.

David G. Haeger

### March Meteorology

Maximum Temperature 48° on the seventeenth.

Minimum Temperature 1° on the third.

Mean Temperature for the month 28°.

Nine clear days, ten partly cloudy, and nine cloudy.

### Letter Writing Day

Every month a day is set aside from school work to write letters. This day is usually the first or second Monday in the month. The purpose of writing letters is to keep the boys from waiting too long before they answer their friends' and parents' letters.

We always hate to get started on our letters, but once started I rather enjoy letter writing.

Herbert Collins

# Thompson's Island Beacon

Published Monthly by

THE FARM AND TRADES SCHOOL

Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor

A PRIVATE SCHOOL FOR BOYS OF LIMITED  
MEANS, SUPPORTED BY ENDOWMENTS.  
TUITION FEES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

WALLACE F. CHOUINARD . . . . . *Editor*

ROBERT P. DONNELLY . . . . . *Assoc. Editor*

Vol. 45 No. 12 April 1942

Subscription Price . . . . . One Dollar Per Year

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Ralph B. Williams

Harold W. Edwards

Silas Snow

These are the days when practical solutions take precedence over the purely theoretical. We are in a war for survival and we must DO! This is no time to be critical of those leaders who advised less preparation for this real situation. Now that we see the real needs clearly we must bend every effort to attain the solution of this world wide tangle.

The biggest and most vital long range problem still continues to be the preparation of our young people and it starts with the life of the child. Industry says, "What can you do?" The business man says, "What training?" The U. S. Navy says, "What has your life been?"

Educators are hastily becoming more practical. Private schools are beginning to require their pupils to do simple manual tasks. Social agencies are beginning to organize home-schools and farm-home-schools. These are steps in the right direction and their leaders should be commended for these efforts. There is tremendous need for greater facilities of this type.

The people are not fully aware of the grave situation which prevails in most communities. The agencies of Greater Boston's Community Fund reported that there were 13,692 children given special care, protection and guidance during one recent year. A recent newspaper editorial stated that there are 8,000 Massachusetts children under the direct supervision of the State Department of Public Welfare and only enough supervisors for one for every 145 children.

The best known private schools charge \$1,500.00 tuition per school year and they also have large income from endowment and other sources.

It costs about \$1,500.00 on the average to convict one man of felony.

Educators and other social leaders

Contributions may be mailed to  
AUGUSTUS P. LORING, JR., Treasurer  
82 Devonshire Street, Boston

should carry forward the campaign to give every youngster a well rounded life of complete development. This can be accomplished at half the cost of either the college preparatory school or the other extreme of convicting felons.

### Topics in Brief

Our religious services for the past two years have been conducted by Rev. Richard Sweetser, of the Gordon College of Theology. We have had fine services every Sunday, and Mr. Sweetser has called upon many of the boys and instructors to assist with special music. Our Sunday School classes are conducted by Mr. Sweetser and other members of the faculty, who are assisted by two different boys each Sunday.

An excellent entertainment took place on March 2, in honor of Mr. Meacham's birthday. Supper, consisting of sandwiches, punch, ice cream and cake was served in the Gymnasium. Later a program of songs, sketches and short plays was given in the Assembly Hall. Everyone had a happy, pleasant time.

Mr. George Lawrence Stone, outstanding musician and author, has again this year generously offered to teach our drum section and weekly seven of our boys go to Mr. Stone's studio for their lesson. We appreciate Mr. Stone's help and kindness very much.

Our Scout troop has had several successful and prosperous meetings during the month. Because of the war, stress has been placed upon certain scout requirements and these have been studied and worked out. Be prepared!

"Movie Night" without a doubt is the most popular night in the week. We have had many outstanding pictures during the winter, and our new RCA—

Victor sound projector has provided the boys with continuous enjoyable recreation.

Richard Frazell gave a magic show here on March 10. He had many baffling tricks and entertained us very much with his program.

Our faculty members have completed the American Red Cross standard course in First Aid.

Our basketball season was finished on March 17. The Wolverines, captained by Glendon Campbell won the Sears Shield. The Coconuts, led by Robert Duquet won the honors in the Nut League, made up of the younger boys in the school. The next activity, before baseball gets underway, will be the marble tournament.

Our agricultural instructor, R. Carroll Jones, has left us, having been inducted into the armed forces. Mr. Jones came to us from the University of Maine and has been with us for three years. We wish him success in his new undertaking.

Edward Rowe Snow, prominent Boston Harbor historian visited us with a group on March 7. During the afternoon he provided a program in Chapel for the boys and visitors which was very much worth while.

The band is about ready for the spring concert and festivals which will take place during April and May.

Rev. and Mrs. Clyde Taylor, with their two children, Loretta and Donald, visited us on March 22. Mr. Taylor was our minister here for one year in 1929. Since then he has been engaged in missionary work in South America.

Mr. Taylor came in time for dinner. During the afternoon he, his family, and

a group of our boys walked around the Island. In the evening we were privileged to have Mr. Taylor lecture to us on his work in South America. His talk was illustrated with lantern slides. Everyone was deeply interested in the program, and we received some knowledge of the wonderful work being accomplished.

Mr. Taylor is on a leave of absence and is studying for his master's degree at Boston University.

### Preparations for the Easter Play

Before the term tests Mr. Ronka gave me a little book for the Easter Play. I am Rufus, the lame boy; Anderson is the Stranger; Macdonald is Simon, the Cyrenian; William Mara is Polinus, a Roman soldier; Ralph Tremblay is Zara, Simon's wife.

The first time we got together, we read the play through, and Mr. Ronka told us our mistakes in reading and expressions. After we finished reading he told us he would divide the drama into parts and not take the whole play at one time. We would first learn that certain part until we had it perfectly.

This is the first Easter play I have ever been in, and I hope I can make good. I have a few speeches learned and hope to learn the rest very soon. We shall have rehearsals until we have learned the whole play. On Easter Sunday we hope the play will be presented smoothly.

Herbert P. Stearns

### Annual Repairs on the Dike

Every year during the last part of winter, many things on the Island need repairs. One of these things is the dike. The dike needs a lot of repairs because the numerous storms have loosened the planks, and the salt water has partly decayed the wood. The dikes have to be dug out from the rubbish and beach sand.

New posts and planks have to be transported from the city to the Island on the barge. The farm boys, supervised by the farm instructors, remove this wood and take it to the dikes on trucks. Then the posts must be put in, and the planks must be spiked to the posts.

These dikes are used to keep the tides from washing away the roads and the rest of the Island.

Franklyn S. Harris

### The Freshman Play

Around the first week of February, Daniel C. Nyman, our class president, donated an original play as entertainment for the freshman class, whose assembly program was to be put on in a short time. The play was not presented until the evening of March 9th, however.

This play dealt with the days when that cruel, selfish, and unthoughtful Emperor Nero ruled with an iron hand over the Roman Empire. The characters brought out clearly what the people had to endure in those days and what they finally destroyed.

The cast of this play included the following:

Nero—Daniel C. Nyman  
 Agrippina—Robert S. Gärland  
 Brazenbeard—Frederick J. Harrington  
 Claudius—Arthur B. Stilphen, Jr.  
 Cheareas—Wellman E. Bonsey  
 Iidelus—Robert W. Duquet  
 Britanicus—John Patterson  
 Senecas—Russell E. Cole  
 Caligula—Chester C. McLeod  
 A guard—Robert P. Donnelly  
 The Rabble—Herbert Stearns and Harold Clement.  
 Announcer—Glendon L. Campbell

Almost all the boys at the Farm and Trades School have the qualities necessary for acting in a good play.

The play was well staged and the

costuming was very good. We hope in the future to have more plays staged for us that have been written by the boys.

Robert P. Donnelly

### Mr. Snow's Visit to Thompson's Island

A man who has just recently joined the Army visited Thompson's Island. His name is Mr. Edward Rowe Snow who goes up and down the Harbor telling stories and writing books about the Harbor.

On March 7th he visited Thompson's Island and here he told a few short stories. Also he had brought some friends who wanted to know about the Island as much as we wanted to know about the harbor. Later Mr. Snow's mother played the zither and told a story of the "Sea Lion" which was very interesting. Then she played some more on the zither. The zither is a small instrument which is like a small harp and has from thirty to forty strings.

Robert L. Blanchard

### The Rain and Snow Storm

Friday March 6th we had the queerest storm I ever saw. First it started to rain quite hard in the night and when I woke up in the morning it was still raining. Of course everybody wore their raincoats. I wore my cape only I used to have a hood on it, but it wouldn't stay on so I took it off.

It kept on raining all morning and throughout dinner; but a very funny thing happened that afternoon when I was in school, great big snowflakes started to fall. At recess everybody tried to make snowballs but they were not successful.

The next morning I awoke and found almost all the snow gone.

Joyce E. Meacham

### Class Activities in Geography

The eighth grade class in Geography

is making posters on Brazil. "Jerry" Harrington and I are making one called "Traveling Along the Amazon." Some of the others are "Brazil's Coffee," "Transportation Facilities in Brazil," "Imports and Exports of Brazil," "South to Rio," and "A Trip to a Rubber Plantation."

The boys found their information and pictures in magazines and other paper clippings. Mrs. Ronka helped the boys find their information and gave them some outstanding headings.

Elmer N. Spraker, Jr.

### Calendar 90 Years Ago, March, 1852

As Kept by the Superintendent

8. Mr. S. L. Hobbs came to give the boys lessons in music.

10. Received a visit from Moses Grant, Esq.

Received 25 tons of coal per sch. Hamilton.

13. Mr. S. L. Hobbs left.

25. Chs. Hiller went to the Eye and Ear Infirmary on account of inflammation in his right eye. Arthur Hughes went to live with James McLeonard, a farmer in Bridgewater (Scotland P. Office) and Edw. W. Poland with Ebene. Nye, Esq., a farmer in Falmouth.

WEBSTER S. GOULD, '18, died at his home 28 Franklin Street, Milford, on March 11. He was Assistant Cashier of the Home National Bank of Milford

Mr. Gould is survived by Mrs. Gould, two sons, and two brothers, who are F. T. S. graduates. They are Theodore, '15, and Emerson, '16.

He has been actively interested in F. T. S. and was frequently present at the Alumni gatherings. At the Alumni Dinner held last month, he subscribed for the Beacon and arranged for a group of School pictures.

Our deepest sympathy is extended to Mr. Gould's family.

## The Alumni Association of The Farm and Trades School

CLIFTON E. ALBEE, '21, President  
Thompson's Island  
HAROLD W. EDWARDS, '10, Treasurer  
Arlington, Mass.

G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Vice-President  
Hyde Park, Mass.

MERTON P. ELLIS, '97, Secretary  
77 SUMMER STREET, BOSTON  
G. GEORGE LARSSON, '17, Historian  
Hyde Park, Mass.

**Officers and Committees for 1942**  
President, Clifton E. Albee, '21  
Vice-President, G. George Larsson, '17  
Secretary, Merton P. Ellis, '97  
Treasurer, Harold W. Edwards, '10  
Historian, G. George Larsson, '17

### Entertainment

Waldo L. Waters, '30, Ch.  
Howard B. Ellis, '98  
Raymond Thomas, '26

### Membership

Clifton E. Albee, '21, Ch.  
Cyrus W. Durgin, '21  
Murdock C. Moore, '39  
Arthur H. Pickard, '34  
Frank L. Washburn, '83

### Alumni Fund

Alfred C. Malm, '00, Ch.  
Lawrence M. Cobb, '14  
Raymond M. Bean, '38  
Harold W. Edwards, '10  
William C. Parsons, '36

### Auditing

Robert L. Clark, '19, Ch.  
Charles E. Nichols, '07  
Henry A. Schramm, '29

### Bell Fund

Will F. Davis, '79, Ch.  
Henry A. Fox, '79  
James H. Graham, '79

### Nominating

Norman F. Morse, '85, Ch.  
Roy M. Dole, '35  
George G. Noren, '02

JAMES E. DOUGLAS, '32, is with the Headquarters Company, 181st Infantry, Camp Edwards, A. P. O. 26, Mass.

WINTHROP DAVIDSON, '40, sends word that he is getting along well and

his special hobby continues to be music. He plays BBB Bass. He writes that his brother, THEODORE R. DAVIDSON, '38, is in the army.

V. DEXTER WOODMAN, '33, sends interesting greetings to all his F. T. S. friends. He is in Ireland on a war mission.

Lieut. JOHN D. MACGREGOR, '31, is in the Pacific war zone on one of Uncle Sam's vessels. He may be reached by addressing mail to him at Portland, Oregon, U. S. N.

WILLIAM LITTLEJOHN, '36, writes from Manchester, N. H., where he is a member of the Air Force Band. He likes army life and has decided to make it a life career.

ALMON H. WHITMORE, '30, is living at 6 Columbia Terrace, Cambridge, Mass. He would be happy to hear from F. T. S. schoolmates.

RUSSELL GARFIELD (BARTHOLEMEW), '36, is now living in Cleveland. When writing him simply address him at Cleveland, Ohio, 12.

Miss Gertrude Allyn and Thomas L. Abbott were married at Bloomfield, Connecticut on March 24. Mr. Abbott was, until last July, a member of our agriculture staff. At the wedding Arthur H. Pickard, '34, was best man, and Clifton E. Albee, '21, head usher. Many messages from former F. T. S. associates were received by the happy couple.